GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:618
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2016
Practice of Witch Craft
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice to label women as witches and carrying on atrocities against them are still prevalent in the country;
(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
(c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such practice?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Government has taken note of the practice of witchcraft in various parts of the country. As per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the State/UT wise details of total number of cases registered under murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the motive/cause of witchcraft during the last three years is annexed.

(c) As per the seventh schedule, "police" and "public order" are the State subjects under the Constitution and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes including sati and witch-hunting, lies with the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. National Commission for Women (NCW) conducts seminars and workshops from time to time to create awareness on the issue and discourage such practices. Harassment/torture/murder etc. which are associated with the witchcraft are already punishable crimes under Indian Penal Code (IPC).

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